When what is done is like an hipocrite,
The which is good in nothing but in sight,
If it be true that I interpret false,
Then were it certaine you were not so bad,
As with foule Incest to abuse your soule:
Where now you both a father and a sonne,
By your vntimely clasping with your childe,
(Which pleasures fits an husband, not a father)
And she an eater of her mothers flesh,
By the defiling of her parents bed,
And both like serpents are, who though they feed
On sweetest flowers, yet they poyson breed
Antioch farewell, for wisedome sees those men
Blush not in actions blacker then the night,
Will shew no course to keepe them from the light:
One sinne [I know] another doth prouoke:
Murders as neere to lust, as flame to smoake:
Poyson and treason are the hands of sinne,
I, and the Targets to put off the shame,
Then least my life be cropt to keepe you cleare,
By flight Ile shun the danger which I feare.

Exit.

Enter Antiochus.

Anti. He hath found the meaning,
For which we meane to haue his head,
He must not liue to trumpet forth my infamy,
Nor tell the world, *Antioch* doth sinne
In such a loathed manner,
And therefore instantly this Prince must die,
For by his fall, my honour must keepe hie.
Who attends vs there?

Enter Thaliard.

Thal. Doth your highnesse call?

Anti. *Thaliard* you are of our Chamber,
And our minde partakes her priuate actions
To your secresie; and for your faithfulnesse
We will aduance you *Thaiard*;

Behold,

Behold, heer's poyson and heer's gold,
We hate the Prince of *Tyre*, and thou must kill him,
It fits thee not to aske the reason why?
Because we bid it: say is it done?

Thal. My Lord, tis done.

Enter a Messenger.

Ant. Enough. Let your breath coole your selfe, telling your haste.

Mess. My Lord Prince *Pericles* is fled.

Ant. As thou wilt liue, flye after, and like an arrow shot from a well experient Archer hits the marke his eye doth leuell it: so do thou never returne, vnlesse thou say, Prince *Pericles* is dead.

Thal. My Lord, if I can get him within my pistols length, Ile make him sure enough: so farewell to your highnesse.

Ant. *Thaliard* adieu, till *Pericles* be dead,
My heart can lend no succour to my head. *Exit.*

Enter Pericles with his Lords.

Per. Let none disturbe vs:
Why should this change of thoughts,
The sad companion dull-eyde melancholy,
By me so vsed, a guest as not an houre,
In the dayes glorious walke or peacefull night,
The toombe where griefe should sleepe, can breed me quiet,
Here pleasures court mine eyes, and mine eyes shun them,
And danger which I feard, is at *Antioch*,
Whose arme seemes farre too short to hit me here,
Yet neuer pleasures art can ioy my spirits,
Nor yet the other distance comfort me:
Then it is thus, that passions of the minde,
That haue their first conception by mis-dread,
Haue after nourishment and life by care;
And what was first but feare, what might be done,
Growes elder now, and cares it be not done.
And so with me; the great *Antiochus*,
Gainst whom I am to little to contend,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Pericles* (STC 22338) LONDON, 1630 NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND (H.28.e.19) Octavo